

Traffic and Parking Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 7, 2014
Town Hall Conference Room A

In Attendance: Joe Parisi, Linda Sanders

Guests: Steve Rowell, Carolyn and Robert Martin, Katie Serpa, David Dwinell

Meeting Opened: 1:40 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes of the September 9, 2014 Meeting: Parisi moved to accept the minutes with the following correction to the Seagull Street – Parking section: last sentence to be amend to “the Committee will decide if a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen is needed”; Sanders seconded; the Committee voted to accept the minutes, as amended, of the September 9, 2014 meeting unanimously.

Seagull Street – Parking: Parisi reported the “no parking” tests on Seagull Street and Martha’s Lane are continuing. The tests use cones and temporary “no parking” signs to designate different no parking zones in the area. Generally the tests have received positive feedback from the neighbors. With each designated “no parking” zone there is impact to the surrounding streets that needs to be evaluated. Parisi will draft a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen once all tests have been completed and if the Committee decides to recommend any changes. Steve Rowell asked if the impact of snow and ice had been considered when doing the tests. He reported that student parking in the neighborhood increases throughout the school year as more students’ get their licenses. Sanders clarified that there are two parts to the solution to this problem – possibly designating “no parking” areas and increasing school parking spaces. This Committee plans to meet with the School Superintendent and High School Principal again before making any recommendations. No vote taken at meeting.

Dodd’s Lane: Robert and Carolyn Martin sent a letter requesting the Committee consider removing the stone pillars at the end of the Dodd’s Lane. In the meeting, they discussed the safety issues related to the pillars limiting visibility for drivers turning onto the Main Street; the pillars have been hit by trucks in the past. Sanders explained that Dodd’s Lane is a private road and therefore all of the residents need to agree on changes and be responsible for the work. Parisi validated the Martin’s concerns and is willing to discuss with the DPW Commissioners the possibility of the Town doing the work if all of the abutters are in agreement and have signed the necessary waivers of liability. He explained another option would be for the residents to pursue the process to give the private road to the Town. Sanders is willing to provide a draft of the necessary legal waiver for the Martins to use. Parisi will discuss the possibility of this project

with the DPW Commissioners and the Martins will begin discussion with their neighbors about the process to initiate removal of the pillars on Dodd's Lane.

Granite Street Sidewalk Extension: Katie Serpa asked the Committee to consider recommending increasing the sidewalk on Granite from Haven Avenue to Halibut Point State Park. This is approximately a mile extension; which Ms. Serpa reports does not feel safe to walk with a baby carriage due to the narrowness of the road and speed of the cars. Parisi and Sanders agreed with the idea of the project and acknowledged significant funding issues. Parisi reported that another potential difficulty may be due to the lack of width on the side of the road for a sidewalk and he also suggested extending the sidewalk to the Gloucester line. Parisi will review the 127A/127 Cape Ann Loop Study recommendations; one purpose of the study was a safety analysis of this roadway. Projects of this magnitude generally involve state funding; Ms. Serpa may reach out to Senator Tarr's office too. Parisi will discuss this project with the DPW Commissioners and agreed to contact Ms. Serpa with any updates.

Scout Hall, Mt. Pleasant Street: The Committee received a letter from Town Clerk, Pat Brown, which detailed the problems at the School for voters in Precinct 3. She asked the Committee to consider the possibility of increasing parking near Scout Hall as an alternative voting site. The Committee agreed that there are significant parking issues near Scout Hall and limited onsite parking. The Committee then discussed other potential voting sites within Precinct 3; Sanders agreed to follow-up with Pat Brown.

Pending:

1. Quarry Ridge Lane and Bay Ridge Lane: Parisi will contact Mr. Shea regarding the potential "Stop" sign.
2. Atlantic Avenue by the Headlands: Parisi will review the possibility of trimming brush in the area to increase visibility near the parking area.
3. Mr. Dwinell is concerned about bicyclists ignoring safety rules and J-walkers.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.